

Russian Federal Nuclear Center in Snezhinsk Celebrates 60th Anniversary



News 06 April 2015 117 2

The Russian Federal Nuclear Center — the All-Russian Research Institute of Technical Physics named after Academician E.I. Zababakhin (RFNC-VNIITF, Snezhinsk, Chelyabinsk Region) celebrates its 60th anniversary on Sunday. VNIITF made an invaluable contribution to the creation of the domestic "nuclear shield", and now, along with work on the main topic, is actively implementing high-tech projects for civilian purposes.

An enterprise of the state corporation Rosatom, VNIITF is one of two nuclear weapons centers in Russia (the first was

Thematic sections



[Anniversaries and holidays](#) 3402



[Nuclear weapons complex \(NWC\)](#) 2598



[History](#) 2074



[Snezhinsk](#) 1355

Experts

founded in 1946 in Sarov, then it was called KB-11, now it is the All-Russian Research Institute of Experimental Physics).

The idea of organizing a new Soviet nuclear center arose among the country's leadership in 1953, after the successful test of the first Soviet thermonuclear charge.

There were several reasons for this decision. It ensured the acceleration of the pace of work on the creation of Soviet nuclear weapons, created the prerequisite for preserving one of the two nuclear centers in the event of war. In addition, it generated healthy competition in developments, which made it possible to more objectively judge the level of weapons being created, put forward new ideas and expand the areas of research.

BOW TO SNEZHINSK

"I worked at VNIITF for thirty years, and I can say that our second nuclear center was not organized in vain,"

— **First Deputy Director General of Rosatom and Director of the Directorate for the Nuclear Weapons Complex Ivan Kamenskikh** told RIA Novosti .

"Of course, if there had been no center in Snezhinsk, many of the products that we transferred to series production would not have taken place. In addition, competition was ensured between our two nuclear centers. This ensured mutual expertise, which became the key to making the right decisions in their work,"

— he explained.

The Deputy Head of Rosatom wished VNIITF employees new achievements and good health.



Kamenskikh Ivan Mikhailovich 232

Rosatom

Director of the Directorate , First Deputy General Director

Organizations



РФЯЦ-ВНИИТФ
РОСАТОМ

RFNC-VNIITF 1507

Nuclear and scientific centers
Snezhinsk

Publications on the topic



"Bunker-42" celebrates 60th anniversary

[News](#) 22 Jul 2016 23



Russian Federal Nuclear Center VNIIEF turns 75

[News](#) 09 Apr 2021 20



Snezhinsk hosts events in connection with the city's 60th anniversary

[News](#) 11 Sep 2017 12



A photo exhibition dedicated to the 60th anniversary of Snezhinsk opened in Novouralsk

[News](#) 19 Jan 2018 9



Problem with an asterisk. Unique developments of the federal nuclear center in Snezhinsk

[Video](#) 08 Apr 2025 44



A rally was held in Snezhinsk to mark the 60th anniversary of the first human space flight

[News](#) 13 Apr 2021 45

"A deep bow to my native
Snezhinsk"

— said Kamenskikh.

START

The "birthday" of the Snezhinsk nuclear center is considered to be April 5, 1955, when an order was issued by the "headquarters" of the Soviet atomic industry, the Ministry of Medium Machine Building, on the organization of its Research Institute No. 1011.

This order defined the main tasks of NII-1011 as "the development of aviation atomic and hydrogen bombs of various designs and special charges for various types of atomic and hydrogen weapons, as well as the creation of conditions for the further growth of research and design personnel in this area."

The site for the future institute was set aside in the depths of the country, in the eastern foothills of the Middle Urals, on the shores of Lake Sinara. The initiative to choose this area belonged to one of the leaders of the USSR atomic project, Avraamy Zavenyagin.

NII-1011 was not created out of thin air: the settlement of Sokol, where the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs Laboratory "B" was located, was chosen as the initial base. Some of the employees of this laboratory also became part of the new institute.

The choice of location for the new nuclear center was also successful in that the most important enterprises of the country's nuclear industry were already concentrated in the Urals by that time. This contributed to the institute's successful cooperation with them in solving the tasks of the main program and in many ways helps today in implementing conversion programs.

On May 23, 1957, a decree was issued by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR on the establishment of the city of Snezhinsk on the site of Research Institute 1011, which in



The Zheleznogorsk Space Communications Center celebrates its 20th anniversary!

[News](#) 27 May 2024 83



PET center to open in Snezhinsk this summer

[News](#) 18 Feb 2015 11



The Association of State Scientific Centers "NAUKA" celebrates its 30th anniversary

[News](#) 26 Jun 2023 41



The largest Russian generating company Rosenergoatom celebrates its 30th anniversary!

[News](#) 07 Sep 2022 107

different years was called Kasli-2, Chelyabinsk-50, Chelyabinsk-70.

NII-1011 itself was later called the All-Union Scientific Research Institute of Instrument Engineering (VNIIP), the All-Union Scientific Research Institute of Technical Physics. In 1992, the institute received the status of the Russian Federal Nuclear Center. In 1998, the institute was named after the outstanding physicist, one of the creators of domestic nuclear weapons, Academician Yevgeny Zababakhin. By decree of the President of Russia in 2014, VNIITF was granted the status of a federal nuclear organization.

THE FOUNDERS OF VNIITF

The first director of NII-1011 was Dmitry Vasiliev, who had gone through an excellent engineering and organizational school at Uralmash and other large defense enterprises in the country. Before NII-1011, Vasiliev headed the creation of a plant in Sverdlovsk-45 for the production of nuclear charges, ammunition and special materials (now the Rosatom enterprise Elektrokhimpribor, the city of Lesnoy in the Sverdlovsk region).

It is believed that it was Vasiliev who proposed naming the new city where the institute was located Snezhinsk.

The legendary nuclear scientist, three times Hero of Socialist Labor Kirill Shchelkin was appointed the first scientific director and chief designer of NII-1011. He put a lot of effort into forming a strong team of scientists and specialists. Shchelkin's authority and personal experience contributed greatly to the fact that the first steps of the newly created institute were successful.

The core of the new team was made up of 350 employees of the first Soviet nuclear center, the Sarov KB-11. These were experienced specialists who had successfully mastered new areas of work. Many of them had participated in the work to create the first

domestic atomic bomb. In addition, scientific, engineering and working personnel from other scientific, design teams and enterprises were attracted.

Many outstanding scientists, engineers and production organizers contributed to the development of the Snezhinsk nuclear center over the years, including Dmitry Vasiliev, Kirill Shchelkin, Evgeny Zababakhin, Lev Feoktistov, Boris Litvinov, Vladimir Grechishnikov, Evgeny Avrorin, Alexander Zakharchenkov, Georgy Lominsky, Boris Ledenev, Georgy Tsyrkov, Vladimir Nechay, Yuri Romanov, Mikhail Shumaev, Georgy Rykovanov.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

The young team of the institute quickly gained strength. The first thermonuclear charge adopted for service in the Soviet Union was developed and tested by the employees of the new institute already in 1957. In the same year, the first nuclear experiment of the institute on studying the properties of substances in extreme conditions was successfully conducted on Novaya Zemlya.

VNIITF developed and transferred to service new aerial bombs for supersonic strategic bombers and frontline aviation aircraft, nuclear warheads for strategic and tactical cruise missiles, a small-caliber artillery shell was put into service, and several types of strategic missile systems of nuclear submarine missile carriers were equipped with nuclear warheads. In a number of areas, work was carried out mainly at VNIITF.

The most important work was aimed at miniaturizing the systems, ensuring their high efficiency, and improving technical and operational characteristics. The institute created record-breaking nuclear charges and ammunition.

A special place in the activities of VNIITF was occupied by the development of nuclear explosive devices for peaceful purposes. The

main part of the domestic program of peaceful nuclear explosions was carried out thanks to the developments of the institute.

Currently, VNIITF is responsible for the author's and warranty supervision of nuclear charges and nuclear munitions of its own design at all stages of their life cycle - from the creation of the design to the dismantling and disposal of the main component units.

VNIITF provides support for the active nuclear arsenal used by the troops, most of which consists of the institute's developments.

MEDAL FOR COLLIDER

In parallel with the development of weapons, the nuclear center increased its scientific potential. Now VNIITF actively participates in fundamental research conducted jointly with the Russian Academy of Sciences, in particular, in the field of physics of extreme states of matter.

The Snezhinsk Nuclear Center also cooperates with international scientific organizations.

Its employees, in particular, contributed to the creation of the Large Hadron Collider, where the Higgs boson was "caught". For the development, manufacture, installation and commissioning of the most complex devices of the diagnostic complex of the VNIITF collider, in 2003 he was awarded the Gold Medal of the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN).

NUCLEAR MEDICINE

VNIITF carries out high-tech projects that have important social significance for the region. This primarily concerns nuclear medicine.

More than 15 years ago, a center for neutron cancer therapy was built in Snezhinsk. Now the Ural Federal Center for Nuclear Medicine is being created in the city. It will diagnose oncological, cardio- and neurological diseases.

This summer, a new positron emission tomography and computed tomography center will begin operating at VNIITF, which will make it possible to detect serious diseases at early stages.

The work of the medical center will be organized as follows: its equipment will be serviced by VNIITF employees, specialists from the Chelyabinsk Oncology Dispensary will examine patients, a "picture" with the results will be sent to Chelyabinsk or Magnitogorsk, where specialists will make a conclusion.

The opening of the center will be timed to coincide with the celebration of the 60th anniversary of VNIITF, which will take place in June.

Source: [RIA Novosti](#)



Comments

Your comment...

Gold partners



About
the
project

Cooperation
and advertising

Why
"atom"?

Contacts



ПРЕМИЯ
ЗА ВЕРНОСТЬ НАУКЕ
Спецноминация «Росатом»
III 2021 II 2023

When using publications of our media, an active link is welcome.

